

The Times-Dispatch

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1911.

WON'T DODGE THE ISSUE.

This eleventh-hour attempt on the part of politicians and office-holders to defeat a great movement by trying to persuade members of the City Council to stay away from the meeting to-night is insulting to the intelligence of the men whose duty requires that they shall vote. It is the inalienable right of every legislator to cast his ballot according to his own convictions. But no legislator—no Councilman—can justify his position in the eyes of his constituents by dodging the issue. Happily, however, our Councilmen are not of the dodging type. Regardless of how they may vote, they should attend the meeting to-night at any cost and forever rebuke that element which has endeavored to block progress and which has resorted to contemptible methods when brought face to face with defeat.

KILL THE AMENDMENTS.

Several amendments will probably be offered to the proposed plan for a better form of city government at the session of the Common Council to-night. Every one of them should be voted down overwhelmingly. There is great danger that some of the Councilmen who are committed to the entire plan will, by voting for one of these amendments, write that amendment into the plan. If this were to be done, it might afford some Councilmen committed to the measure, but not to the amendment, a chance to back out by saying that they were committed to the plan unamended and as it stood, and in no other shape.

What is to be feared is the killing of the whole plan by the passing of a single amendment. In the circumstances, every amendment offered to-night should be regarded as menacing the plan. Accordingly, every Councilman in favor of the four-ward redistricting, the smaller Council and the administrative board, should vote "No" on every amendment, no matter by whom or for what reason.

It is the plain duty of the Common Council to pass the plan unamended to-night. The deliberate judgment of the men who studied and worked out the plan is that it is now as near perfect and practicable as circumstances will allow. If amendments are to be made, let them be made when the plan has been tried out; then, if there are defects, let them be remedied.

The Councilmen who to-night vote "no" on every amendment and who vote "aye" for the plan unamended are the Councilmen who will express the will of the people of Richmond and, with it, the judgment of experts and the experience of other cities.

There must be no swamping of horses in mid-stream to-night. Let those who favor the plan as outlined stand pat and stand pat on every vote.

Kill the amendments, gentlemen of the Council, and thereby record yourselves as putting the will of the people over individual desire and opinion.

\$40,000 IN THREE DAYS.

Forty thousand dollars in three days. That is what the good people of Richmond are called upon to subscribe for a great cause before Wednesday night. If the city is to have a new Young Women's Christian Association building, that amount must be subscribed within that time.

Richmond has subscribed \$50,000 on a single night, and \$10,000 in three days is not much for a city like ours. The former sum was subscribed for a special cause, a sentimental project, which had no immediate effect upon the morals and uplifting force of the community.

We can and we ought to be willing to give \$40,000, as the sum needed to complete the fund, for a new and well equipped home for the Young Women's Christian Association. If that building is erected, not only will Richmond lend a hand to the great company of working girls in this city, but it will uplift and aid at the same time the womanhood of Richmond.

The proposition is as plain as day. It is to build a great, modern home for the unprotected women of this city and a great social centre for the city's young women. It will shelter and give recreation and afford guidance to the young women of Richmond who need these things—and they are many.

The Young Women's Christian Association will, for scores of girls, take the place of the cheap boarding house, the lighted, with dismal rooms and no comforts or conveniences. It will give the girl who works for her bread nourishing meals, especially at midday, at low prices. For self-supporting women the Young Women's Christian Association will be a Christian home.

In a new home, the Young Women's Christian Association could be of incalculable educational value in increasing the efficiency of our young women and in giving them the opportunity for physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development. There would be night classes in general education and vocational branches.

But there is a greater reason than

all these. It is the moral duty of Richmond to erect this building, and erect it right now. The city owes a duty to its young people who have no home ties. It has recognized a part of this bilateral obligation in building a Young Men's Christian Association, as a home and social centre for its young men. It is even more imperative that the city shall in like manner take care of its young women.

It is a human trait of all of us to want "somewhere to go" otherwise than home; if we have no real home, that desire is even stronger. A girl's love of light and color and warmth, of amusement and attraction, is perfectly natural. The girl who works all day does not feel like staying at home every evening. She wants to go somewhere where she will be amused, given recreation and pleasant surroundings.

Where does she go now? To the parks, in the summer; in the winter, to moving picture shows and about the streets. She has no club to which she can go to amuse or instruct herself or where she can be with girl companions. The men who wait for her on street corners or in front of the stores when the closing hour comes are too often her only acquaintances; none would say that they are her friends.

A great movement to help the women of Richmond who need help—that is what this movement is.

Richmond must raise \$40,000 in the next three days for this cause. We have done more than that before. Every dollar that goes to the Young Women's Christian Association to-day, to-morrow and Wednesday is an investment that will pay an incalculable dividend in the happiness, the uplift, the heartening, the helping and the Christianizing of Richmond's young women. Help the young women who need help to help themselves.

NO OCCASION.

There is no occasion for a display of American jingoism over the case of Morgan Shuster, who was employed by the Persian government to reorganize the finances of that empire, and whose dismissal has been demanded—nay, dictated—by Russia. Much less is there, or has there been, occasion for a protest on the part of this government, as has been suggested in some circles.

It is, of course, regrettable that after his several noted successes as a financial reconstructionist Mr. Shuster has admittedly failed in this instance, or been caused to fail, and it is natural that as an American citizen of prominence he should have American sympathy in the rather humiliating position in which he finds himself. It is melancholy to contemplate how the might have fallen since Persia came under Mohammedan sway and its corrupting influences, and a nation of virile conquerors, under Cyrus, Cambyses and Xerxes, has been transformed into a leaderless nation of sybaritic trucklers, which, some vapors of defiance of Russia none the less, will not dare assert the right of self financial rehabilitation in order to become honest.

But there is nothing in the action of Russia that can by any possibility be construed into an affront to the United States government or the American people. The issue is one between Russia, Persia and Mr. Shuster; the situation is one in which, through clear blundering in sending a British collecting agent into the Russian sphere of domination, Mr. Shuster gave Russia, under the Anglo-Russian agreement regarding Persia, an excuse—a coveted excuse, no doubt—to create, if Russia prefers, as it plainly seems she does, that financial chaos and the internal demoralization it engenders should continue rampant in Iran, and that the Persians should default their pecuniary obligations to her, in order that partition—actual territorial aggrandizement—may be made easier and more "justifiable." It is none of our concern. Save abstractly and sentimentally. That is Russia's affair.

Nor have we, as has also been suggested by some of these over-zealous of American dignity, any reason to be resentful towards Great Britain for her attitude in the matter. In the negative rather than the active part Great Britain has taken she has simply been loyal to her pact with Russia and stayed on her side of the line. In her attitude, in truth, she has defended her line—the line of demarcation between herself and Russia—by not affording the latter opportunity or provocation to cross it now or later.

She has recognized that who saps with Russia "must need sup with a long spoon" and be very wary of mistakes that might give hostages to the future.

ANOTHER RICHMOND IN THE FIELD.

"Politics all right in Indiana," said Kin Hubbard would say. If that State is ever not boiling over the political pot, it will be because all the Hoosiers are dead. A familiar Indiana political figure now comes to the front and makes his bow as a prospective candidate for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. Thomas Hendricks Brannaman and John R. Voight all their visions of the White House have resigned for a time, and Marshall is the man of the hour.

Last week the Democratic State Committee of Indiana endorsed Governor Marshall as the State's candidate for the nomination, and he made a very neat little speech, in which he said: "If Indiana wants Tom Marshall to be a candidate, then Tom Marshall will be President of the United States." That brings up a point which must be taken into consideration. It remains to be seen whether the people of his State will favor Marshall, but we take it that they will, since Marshall is the best known Democrat in Indiana, although a few of the oldest inhabitants recall that a man named Kern, who is reported to be alive and well, once ran for the vice-presidency on the same

ticket with a once well-known protracted speaker by the name of Bryan.

The Providence Tribune makes a point by asking whether, even if the Indiana Democrats do desire Marshall as their candidate, their organization can be trusted to carry out the popular wish. More depends upon the character of the convention delegates than upon the dictum of the State Committee. As the Tribune says, "If the organization is of the usual Taggart type, the decision as to the Marshall candidacy will rest, not with the Democrats of Indiana, but with the few men who run things."

The Governor was more nearly right when he said: "The matter you present will be submitted to 300,000 people of Indiana who are not gathered here. If you have mistaken their temper, then your kindness will be toppled over by gentlemen who do not agree with you. No resolutions can make me President. The Democratic party is a party of the people. I don't want to be a leader of a people who are unable to lead themselves."

Whether the Democrats of Indiana will support Marshall remains to be seen; whether, if they wish to, they can control the matter is yet undecided. The time is not ripe for the rejection or support of any aspirant for the Democratic presidential nomination, but we may be pardoned if we say that the Marshall boom will probably spend its strength in Indiana. So far as can be ascertained, Governor Marshall is not presidential timber by experience.

"Who's Who" contains nothing in his record to indicate anything especially striking about the man or his work. He is fifty-seven years old. He is a graduate of Wabash College, and after he became Governor was given an LL. D. He practiced law thirty-four years. He has been a trustee of Wabash College. He is a Presbyterian. He is a Phi Beta Kappa, and, as almost everybody in Indiana is, he is a "Fiji," which being translated from college parlance means "Phi Gamma Delta." He belongs to the Indianapolis Literary Club, which is a grave thing, but the worst thing we know against him is that a best-seller has been dedicated to him by Meredith Nicholson.

However, it is the inalienable and inborn right of any Democrat to run for the presidency, especially if he is an Indian. In Indiana every man is convinced that he himself is a potential President—even Albert Jeremiah Beveridge, who is not just now in eruption. Far be it from us to dampen the ardor and ambition of Thomas Riley Marshall, but we cannot see why it follows that if Indiana, the Hoosier, wants Marshall, the nation wants him.

GO TO THE CITY HALL TO-NIGHT.

Every citizen who wishes a better form of government for Richmond should go to the City Hall to-night at 8 o'clock. The Common Council will to-night pass upon the proposed plan for a smaller Council and an administrative board—two great reforms for our city that should be adopted at once. There is determined opposition to this progressive step for Richmond, and a great outpouring of the people to-night will do much to discourage the Councilmen who might defeat the will of the people and block the prosperity and better government of Richmond. Let the Council Chamber be packed with citizens, as an indication of their desire in this matter. A great crowd was present last week at the City Hall when the Ordinance, Charter and Reform Committee of the Council met and reported favorably the new plan. It had been expected that there might be a defeat or tie-up in that committee, but the people who came there were witnesses of an overwhelmingly favorable and popular result. This plan should pass the Council to-night. Be there to help in getting it through.

A DIVISION IN DELAWARE.

Delaware will have but six votes in the Democratic National Convention, but even that small number is not negligible in view of the rule that requires a candidate to get two-thirds of the entire number in order to be nominated. With aggressive aspirants in the field, there are liable to be many splits in the various States where there is a division of sentiment. In Delaware in the old days the leaders of the party were Bayard and Saulsbury and now two bearers of those famous names, State Chairman Thomas F. Bayard and National Committeeman Willard Saulsbury, are leading, respectively, the Harmon and Wilson forces. These two Delaware Democrats used to work together, but they have come to the parting of the ways. The chances in Delaware seem to favor Wilson because of the proximity of New Jersey, but with the State chairman for Harmon, a split is almost certain next year.

By the way, have you asked your representatives in the Common Council how they stand on this new plan for a better, bigger, busier Richmond, that they will have to vote on to-night at the City Hall? If not, see them and tell them you want it.

Elhu Root suggests that the century of peace between Great Britain and the United States be celebrated on February 17, 1915 by five minutes of absolute silence on the part of the 150,000,000 English-speaking people in the world. This would be a fine opportunity for the female of the species to be quieter than the male.

If every member of the Common Council is not at the City Hall to-night, the people will know the reason why.

A "Red-Headed Club" to bring together red-headed college men was established at Ohio State University last spring, and now it is a secret society, Lambda Tau Rho. Chapters will be established in all the Texas

colleges under the auspices of the famous red-headed widows of Houston.

Go to the City Hall to-night. There's a reason.

Jalsint jumped off a Cambridge, Mass., street car the other night, and the news has been flashed over the country that he received a gash in the nose and is threatened with concussion of the brain. Jalsint in the Gaekwar of Baroda, heir apparent to the throne of the little Indian nation, and he is a sophomore at Harvard, where he is known as "the Glike." He is enormously wealthy, and lives in princely style in a palatial dormitory, but he is a rather lonesome cuse—his skin is very dark.

Tasker L. Oddie, John Burke, Oswald West, Joseph M. Cary, Edwin L. Norris, Adolph O. Eberhardt, James H. Hawley and Robert Vessoy are traveling around the country in a special train. No reward is offered for their identification. They are only Governors of several Western States.

The football season is over, but Congress opens to-day.

OUR BEST LAND ADVERTISEMENT.

It is said that in the reclaimable, although temporarily worn-out, river valleys of Virginia, where "corn every year" sapped the strength from a generous soil, there is some of the cheapest and best farming land in this country. The best recent advertisement of the value of Virginia lands, to the prospective buyer who intends to move to the place where he buys his land, was the trial, conviction and execution of Henry Clay Beattie.

The Courier-Journal reprinted from a magazine several months ago an article upon Canada, in which an American farmer was quoted as saying that it was better to have a law that attracted farmers from across the line, "if a man commits murder in Canada," said the man from this side of the line, "he is tried and hanged, and that's all there is to it, and it makes no difference who he is."

That was not perhaps a full explanation of the drift to Canada, but making it the former "American" farmer gave excellent reasons for liking Canada. There is very little personal liberty for decent citizens where there is no punishment of crime.

The Chicago Tribune has been compiling statistics from reports of "killings," and says that there have been more than 5,000 murders this year in the United States. There are thousands of murders and Christmas murders, as grotesque as the terms may seem, yet to be listed. If the Tribune's figures are correct it is reasonable to believe that the total will be about 10,000 for the year. This, of course, keeps America unique among civilized countries for the volume of crimes of violence within its borders.

The Brooklyn Eagle calls attention to the fact that we have about 100 murders a year, and that our population annually, as against the total of 23,000,000, is sparser of population makes conditions somewhat like they formerly were in our lawless West.

The Eagle continues: "Judge De Courcy, of Massachusetts, pointed out to the Prison Reform Association at Boston recently that in this city out of 115 homicides investigated only forty-five convicted persons were sentenced to the penitentiary and the other seventy were set free. In Louisville, with a population of only 125,000, there were forty-seven murders, and not a single execution of a murderer. This showed that out of 81,000,000, there were more murders in this country than in the prisons of this country."

10,700 were under arrest for murders, 10,700 were executed. How many of that number were executed? Can you guess from the above figures of New York, Chicago and Louisville. An ingenious statistician in Collier's magazine, if you shoot the man with whom you have a quarrel it is a "three to one" shot; ten to one that he will never be brought to trial; ten to one that he will be sent to the penitentiary, and eighty to one that you will never pay a death penalty. What a chance!

Let us have special services for deliverance from murder as well as for deliverance from war. We can control if we choose. Our influence on the other is for the most part moral and indirect."

The Old Dominion has every considerable agricultural, timber and mineral resources undeveloped. It gains ground as a State in which the law is vindicated when a crime is committed. There is no more solid inducement to the prospective settler than that the peace is established, and life and property made safe, by a rigid enforcement of law. Some of the European countries which are reported to have their immigrants against Southern States on the ground that law and order are not maintained. Statistics might prove the warlike character of the South, but what is true in America is true in the South, and the Virginia method of disposing of murder cases

Christmas Shopping

(Copyright, 1911, By John T. McEntee.)



Do your shopping now! At present!!! While conditions are so pleasant.

Do it now and do it early, Thus avoid the hurly-burly.



is exceptional and is attracting attention. Other States might profit by taking notice.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Voice of the People

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I was struck with the collection of a communication on the editorial page, and says that there have been more than 5,000 murders this year in the United States. There are thousands of murders and Christmas murders, as grotesque as the terms may seem, yet to be listed. If the Tribune's figures are correct it is reasonable to believe that the total will be about 10,000 for the year. This, of course, keeps America unique among civilized countries for the volume of crimes of violence within its borders.

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be wicked to retain possession of works which are full of improprieties. For, in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, people were accustomed to call a spade a spade, even in print; the standards of propriety and even of morality were exceedingly low, as compared with those of to-day; while the license, not merely of speech, but also of illustration and print, was very great. Indeed, in to-day's issue of your paper of a communication on the editorial page, and says that there have been more than 5,000 murders this year in the United States. There are thousands of murders and Christmas murders, as grotesque as the terms may seem, yet to be listed. If the Tribune's figures are correct it is reasonable to believe that the total will be about 10,000 for the year. This, of course, keeps America unique among civilized countries for the volume of crimes of violence within its borders.

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La Marquise de Fontenoy

INASMUCH as Queen Wilhelmina of Holland possesses one of the largest and richest fortunes of any sovereign in Europe, a considerable amount of astonishment has been created by the announcement to the effect that she is selling this week her enormous library—not, of course, the collection of books belonging to the State, but those which are her own personal property, inherited from many different ancestors, ancestresses and relatives and of great value. Some of her forebears in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were noted bibliophiles, conspicuous among them being Princess Frederika of Prussia, being Princess Victoria of Orange, hereditary Stadtholder of the Netherlands.

Just why the Queen should wish to sell these books and manuscripts, which include literary treasures of almost priceless value, gathered together in the days when books of worth were within the reach only of the very rich is a matter of considerable speculation. But the explanation which reaches me from an authorized source is that Wilhelmina, who is extremely religious, most puritanical and ever strict-laced in her views, and somewhat narrow minded, considers it to

is a son of the late Thomas Graham Murray, who was senior partner of the great Edinburgh firm of lawyers, Todds, Murray & Jamieson.

Lord Dundedin's people hail from Perthshire, and he was educated at Harrow and Cambridge, where he played racquet ball at Harrow and played in his college eleven at the university. He makes his home at Stenton, a beautiful place in Perthshire, near Dundee, on the most picturesque portion of the river, nearly opposite Murchy Castle, and east in the famous district, Cabinet Secretary for Scotland, abandoning his portfolio to become Lord Justice General and Lord President of the Court of Session of Scotland, which is the Scotch equivalent for the Lord Chief Justice of England.

The title of Scotland, of which he is the Keeper of the Great Seal, is a dignity created by the King and Parliament of Scotland in the fifteenth century, for the benefit of the heir apparent to the crown, and differs from the heir apparent's principality of Wales, in that it carries with it the possession of certain lands and revenues in the northern kingdom, whereas as nothing of the kind goes with the title of Prince of Wales.

The presence of a proctor in divorce proceedings in the State of Kansas is so great an innovation here in America that it may be as well to explain that he is a most important factor in all divorce trials in Europe. His participation in the trial is a species of reminder that there are three principles in every marriage, namely, the husband, the wife and the law, the law being not merely an ecclesiastical, but also a legal condition. The State has therefore a right to be consulted in the dissolution of the contract; not in the person of the judge, whose duty is restricted to the dispensation of justice, but as a counselor, who abroad is known as the procurator or as the proctor.

In England he is known as the King's proctor. Six months elapse before the decree nisi, pronounced by the judge, is made absolute. The very use of the word "nisi" in connection with the first decree means that it shall only be made absolute in the event of nothing turning up to prevent it.

It is the duty of the King's proctor to ascertain during those six months if there is not something of a nature to render the divorce inadvisable. Thus, collusion between the petitioner and the respondent in bringing the proceedings is forbidden by English law; and if any trace thereof can be found by the King's proctor, or is brought to his notice through third parties, the final decree is refused. Then, too, if the divorce having been pronounced against the respondent, the King's proctor ascertains that the petitioner has likewise been guilty of marital misconduct, he intervenes, and the first decree is quashed.

In one word, the King's proctor very effectively prevents any fraud or evasion of the strict law, in the matter of dissolving the marriage tie; and he is a terror to those who appeal to the courts without having their skirts entirely clean.

There is no doubt that were other States to follow the example of Kansas, the scandals in connection with the granting of divorces in this country would be greatly reduced in number, and would no longer be lightly regarded as a very customary luxury of the rich, ignoring their responsibility in the matter of the State.

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Eleven Hundred and Nine East Main Street
 is the temporary home of one of Richmond's Best Banks.